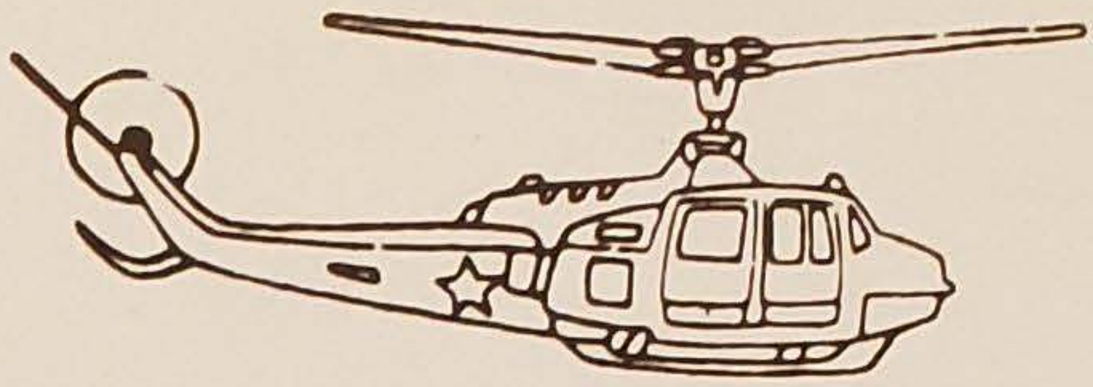
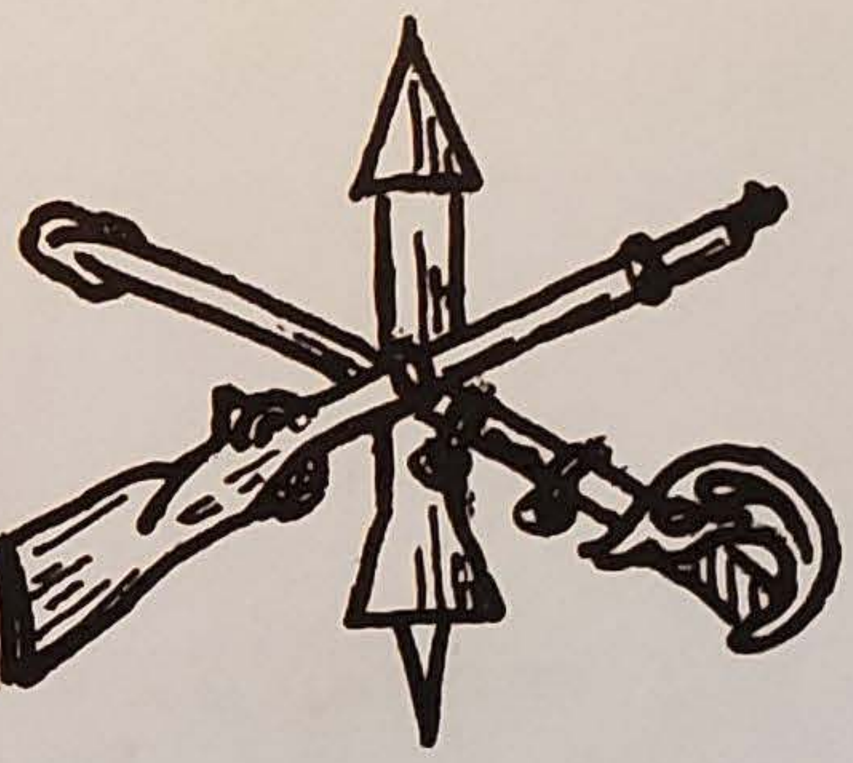


Musket, Saber, and Missile



A History of Fort Bliss

Compiled by
RICHARD K. MCMASTER

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by

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Fifth Printing 1974

Complete Printing & Letter Service

6114 Trowbridge Drive

El Paso, Texas

INTRODUCTION

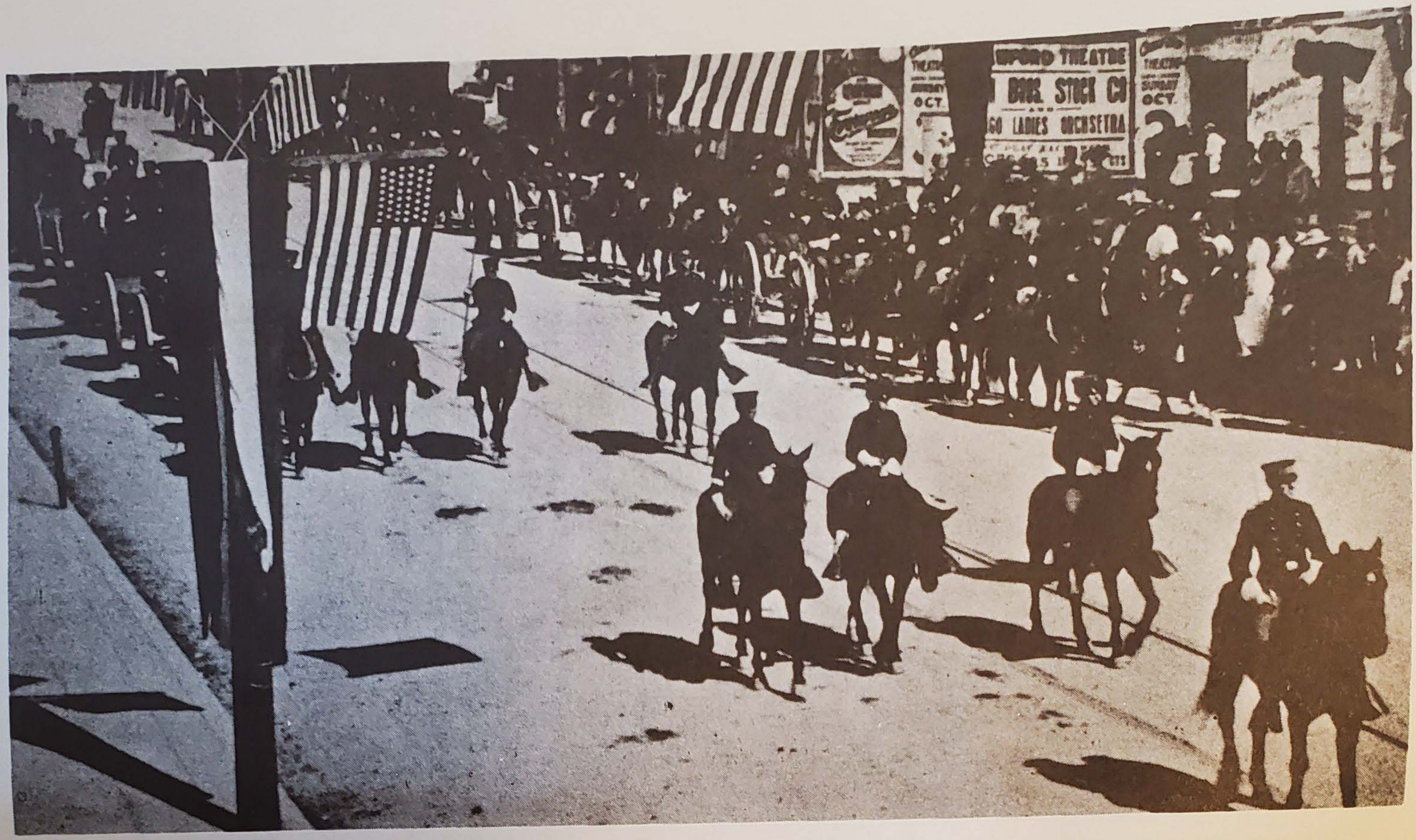
The old adobe posts that bore the name of Fort Bliss have long ago returned to the earth from which they were constructed. There yet remain in evidence, some of the quarters of the post at Hart's Mill, and most of the brick and stone buildings of the original post on La Noria Mesa.

At one time or another, units of nearly every regiment of the old regular infantry, cavalry, and field artillery have been quartered at or passed through the posts at El Paso. In addition, the National Guard of twenty-two States, and detachments of many foreign armies have been trained in the El Paso area.

Based upon length of service at Fort Bliss, the mounted troops are still out in front. The 7th Cavalry and the 82nd Field Artillery served at Fort Bliss for over twenty-five years. The 59th Artillery, Air Defense, has now been at the post for over fifteen years, while the 25th Infantry leads the foot soldiers with an eleven year total.

Richard K. McMaster

El Paso, Texas.
1962.



3rd Field Artillery, Taft-Diaz escort, October 16, 1909.

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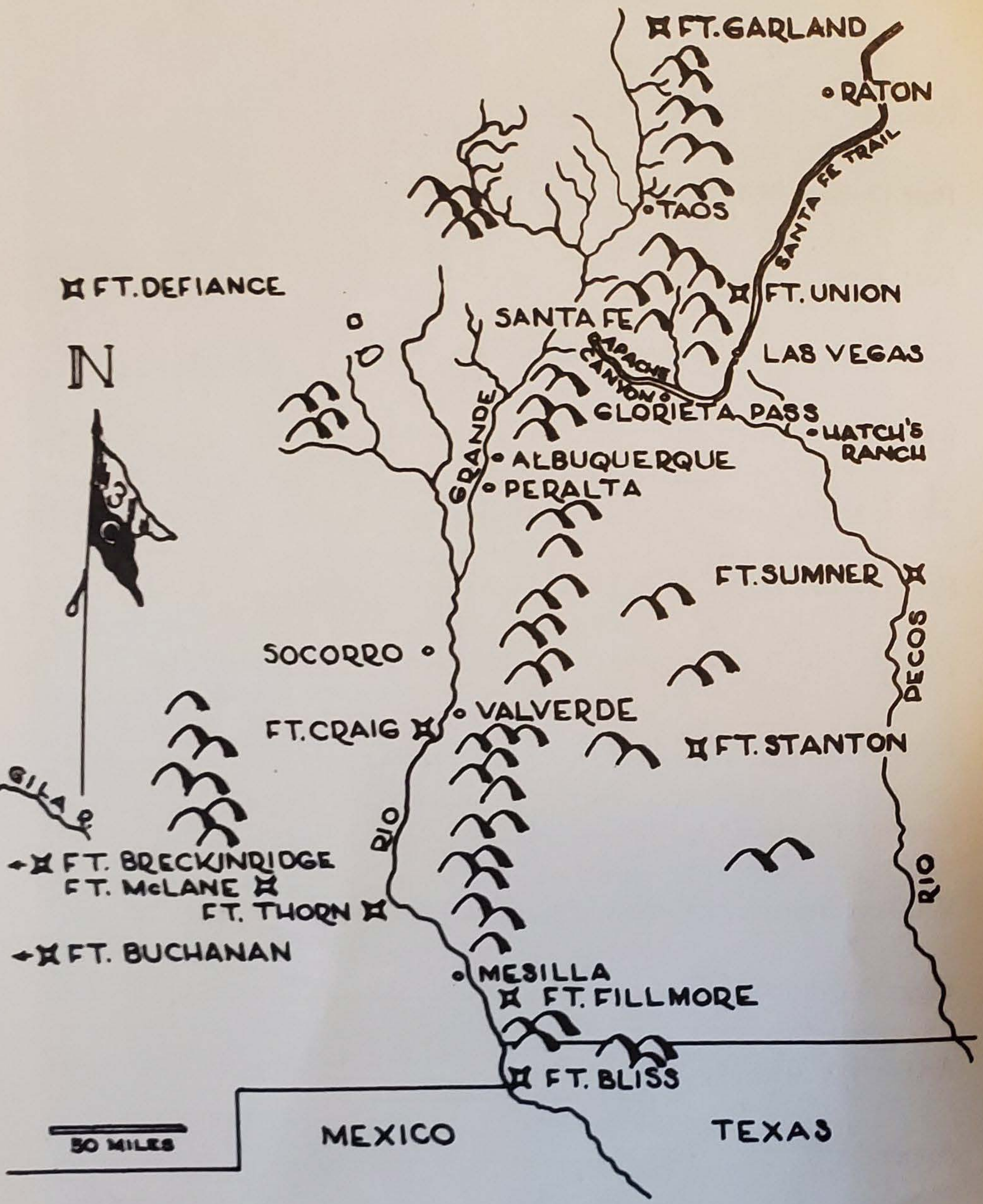

FT. GARLAND
RATON
SANTA FE TRAIL
TAOS
FT. DEFIANCE
FT. UNION
SANTA FE
LAS VEGAS
APACHE CANYON
GLORIETA PASS
HATCH'S RANCH
GRANDE
ALBUQUERQUE
PERALTA
N
FT. SUMNER
PECOS
SOCORRO
VALVERDE
FT. CRAIG
FT. STANTON
GILA
RIO
FT. BRECKINRIDGE
FT. McLANE
FT. THORN
FT. BUCHANAN
RIO
MESILLA
FT. FILLMORE
FT. BLISS
50 MILES
MEXICO
TEXAS

RECONNAISSANCE AND EXPEDITION

1806 - 1848

The first officer of the United States Army to enter the Pass to the North was Captain Zebulon M. Pike, 1st U. S. Infantry. The trip to El Paso del Norte was unnecessary from the standpoint of Captain Pike, he and his party being at the time captives of the Spanish authorities and enroute to Chihuahua. Pursuant to orders from Brigadier General James Wilkinson, commander of the then Western Department, Captain Pike and a small detachment had set out from St. Louis on July 15, 1806, across the plains to make treaties with the horse Indians, explore and map the remote boundary between the newly acquired Louisiana Territory and Northern Mexico, and to find the means of opening a way to Santa Fe.

Entering the Rocky Mountains in the fall of the year, the party was subjected to extreme hazard and hardship during the winter season, one third of the men being left in the mountains unable to walk any further due to frostbite. The remainder of the party reached open country and established a base camp on a stream mistaken for the Red River. Actually they were at the headwaters of the Rio Grande and in Spanish territory. In February of 1807, the civilian doctor attached to the party was dispatched to contact the authorities at Santa Fe, and a rescue team was sent back to bring out the five soldiers left behind in the mountains. A short time later, a strong detachment of Spanish troops arrived to insist that Pike and his men accompany them to Santa Fe. Being assured that the remainder of the party would be cared for, Pike and his ablebodied men left for Santa Fe February 26.

After examination of his maps and documents by the Spanish Governor at Santa Fe, Pike and his men were disarmed and sent to Chihuahua under military escort for further interrogation. March-

ing down the Rio Grande, Captain Pike was impressed by the hospitality and kindness extended by the villagers at the overnight halts, including banquets, fandangos, and cockfights. The Rio Grande was finally crossed by bridge two miles above El Paso del Norte where the escort rested for several days before proceeding on to Chihuahua. Pike and his men were held in Mexico for several months and were then escorted to the lower Rio Grande where they arrived June 1, 1807. Pike's reports of the journey were published and became a valuable source of information for future travellers.

Thereafter Pike rose rapidly in the Army, becoming colonel of the 15th Infantry in 1812, and brigadier general in 1813. He was killed in the attack upon York in Upper Canada March 12, 1813, while serving in the dual capacity of adjutant general and inspector general of the army. Pike's Peak commemorates his name.

The War of 1812 and the Seminole Indian War in Florida prevented further military exploration of the southwest until 1846. Following the declaration of war with Mexico, an expedition was organized at Fort Leavenworth to march on Santa Fe and Northern Mexico all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Assembled under the command of Colonel Stephen W. Kearny, 1st U. S. Dragoons, were five companies of the 1st Dragoons, Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan's 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers, and the Laclede Rangers. Attached to these mounted troops were the Battalion Missouri Artillery and two companies of volunteer infantry. The expedition was to be both exploratory and military, there being assigned four officers of the Corps of Topographical Engineers headed by 1st Lieutenant William H. Emory to map the route and make scientific notes. Leaving Fort Leavenworth on June 5, 1846, the 1650 man column moved southward along the Santa Fe Trail. Village after village surrendered as the expedition moved down into New Mexico through Raton Pass. Arriving at Santa Fe on August 18, Kearny proclaimed New Mexico to be a part of the United States.

Kearny was soon reinforced by the arrival of Colonel Sterling Price with the 2nd Missouri Mounted Volunteers and the Mormon

Battalion of Infantry. He then divided his command, taking two companies of Dragoons, the Mormon Battalion, and the Topographical Engineers with him on a forced march to California. They left the Rio Grande above El Paso del Norte, near the village of Valverde, to march westward to San Diego. Emory's "Notes on a Military Reconnaissance," a complete scientific account of the Southwest, was published in 1848. He later became the U. S. Boundary Commissioner and established the boundary between the United States and Mexico.

In October, 1846, Colonel Doniphan left Colonel Price in command at Santa Fe, and with three hundred mounted men conducted a rapid campaign against the Navajoes to the west. He rejoined the remainder of his regiment at Valverde in mid-December and began his march on El Paso del Norte and Chihuahua.

On Christmas Day, Doniphan's column was confronted by a Mexican army of 1200 men of the Vera Cruz Dragoons and the Octavo Battalion from Chihuahua, arrayed near an arm of the Rio Grande called "El Brazito," about twenty-five miles above El Paso del Norte. The Mexican attack was driven off with but seven Americans wounded, and without further incident the Doniphan column entered El Paso del Norte on December 27 to encamp near the plaza. Here they received the same hospitality and entertainment accorded Captain Pike forty years before. While they awaited the arrival of a battery of the Missouri Artillery from Santa Fe, there was ample time to partake of the gambling and horse racing that was rampant. They were surprised at the wide canals that irrigated the vineyards, orchards, and fields, also the fine homes and furnishings. The gray clad battery of Major Clark, son of the explorer, arrived all too soon on February 1, 1847, the whole population of the town assembling to look on the reception that included a welcoming salute fired from a cannon captured at the battle of Brazito. One week later Doniphan began the march on Chihuahua and Saltillo to join General Wool.

In November of 1847, Colonel Price was authorized to reoccupy El Paso del Norte. By the end of February, 1848, he had assembled

there Major Benjamin L. Beall's three companies of the 1st Dragoons, the Battalion of Santa Fe Horse, and a battalion of the 2nd Missouri Mounted Volunteers. One company of Dragoons and one company of Horse were acting as artillery. Hearing that a Mexican army in Chihuahua was preparing to march north, Colonel Price on his own responsibility, moved against Chihuahua on March 1. After occupying the state capitol, he was advised that a treaty of peace had already been signed. Mistrusting the information, he pursued the Governor and his forces southward to Santa Cruz de Rosales, where the Mexicans were defeated forty-two days after the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

General Wool in Saltillo

POST OPPOSITE EL PASO

1849 - 1851

On May 30, 1848, Mexico gave up its claim to Texas, California, and New Mexico, including present day Arizona. The ink had hardly dried on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo before the United States took steps to occupy its newly acquired territory in the Southwest. To New Mexico and California marched the last of the Army of Occupation from Saltillo, Mexico, regular Dragoons and horse artillery under the command of Colonel John M. Washington, 3rd Artillery, a distant relative of General George Washington. Due to a shortage of blue caps and jackets, these troops were outfitted in bright red flannel shirts and black broad brimmed felt hats, which with their white belts and burnished arms, and accompanied by dashing horsewomen, were described as a sight seldom seen in Uncle Sam's service. And from San Antonio and Jefferson Barracks were ordered veteran troops of the Vera Cruz expedition, the 3rd Infantry and a battalion of the 2nd Artillery.

The mounted troops of Colonel Washington's expedition arrived at Santa Fe in the fall of 1848, having retraced the route of Doniphan's column through Chihuahua and El Paso del Norte. The foot troops, delayed by preliminary road reconnaissance and long marches, did not reach New Mexico until the following year.

The 3rd Infantry entered New Mexico under the command of Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Brooke Alexander, who established his headquarters at Santa Fe on July 22, 1849. Arriving with him were four companies of the 3rd Infantry commanded by Captain George Sykes, and two companies of the 2nd Artillery under Major Henry L. Kendrick. Like the Washington column of the year before, the newly arrived troops first conducted an expedition against the Navajo Indians before taking post throughout the territory.

The remainder of the 3rd Infantry, the Regimental Staff, Companies A, B, C, E, I, K, and the Regimental Howitzer Battery, commanded by Captain and Brevet Major Jefferson Van Horne, left San Antonio on June 1, 1849, and one hundred days later on September 8 arrived at a "camp 5 miles below El Paso del Norte." The command marched by companies in order to conserve water at the watering holes for its large supply train and beef herd as well as the forty-niners enroute to California. On "September 14, the Staff and Companies A, B, C, and E moved up opposite El Paso del Norte, and the following day Companies I and K marched and took post at Presidio de San Elizario, a town twenty miles below El Paso del Norte." Major Van Horne commanded the battalion opposite El Paso del Norte, and Major William S. Henry commanded the two-company battalion and the Howitzer Battery which were stationed at San Elizario.

The fact that the boundary between Texas and New Mexico was in dispute, is indicated by the Regimental Returns, which carried the companies as enroute to New Mexico rather than Texas, and also by the subsequent reports headed "Post opposite El Paso, New Mexico." It was not until 1850 that the 32nd Parallel of Latitude became the boundary line between Texas and the Territory of New Mexico, and thus placed the post opposite El Paso del Norte in the State of Texas.

Although El Paso del Norte was a long established community of several thousand inhabitants, there were but three ranches and a mill on the United States side of the Rio Grande. Major Van Horne's battalion built an adobe post at Smith's Ranch, the settlement nearest the town in Mexico.

The Regimental Return of the 3rd Infantry dated September 30, 1849, signed by Lieutenant Colonel Edmund B. Alexander, records the following data:

Post Opposite El Paso, New Mexico

Staff	1 Officer	13 Enlisted men
Company A	1 Officer Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. Louis S. Craig	42 Enlisted men
Company B	3 Officers Capt. & Bvt. Maj. Oliver L. Shepherd	34 Enlisted men
Company C	2 Officers Capt. William E. Johns	43 Enlisted men
Company E	2 Officers Capt. & Bvt. Maj. Jefferson Van Horne Commanding Battalion	39 Enlisted men

1 Non-commissioned officer and 4 enlisted men taking care of horses belonging to Howitzer Battery at Presidio de San Elizario.

Presidio de San Elizario

Company I	2 Officers Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. Daniel T. Chandler	32 Enlisted men
Company K	1 Officer Capt. & Bvt. Maj. William S. Henry Commanding Battalion	42 Enlisted men

/s/ W. H. Wood, 1st Lt., Batt. Adj.

The Regimental Staff consisting of the Quartermaster, two non-commissioned officers, and eleven musicians, departed for Colonel Alexander's headquarters at Santa Fe on November 11. The companies at Smith's Ranch were also to be on the move, for the entire regiment had been assigned to the Department of New Mexico on November 7, 1848, and the post opposite El Paso del Norte was within that command.

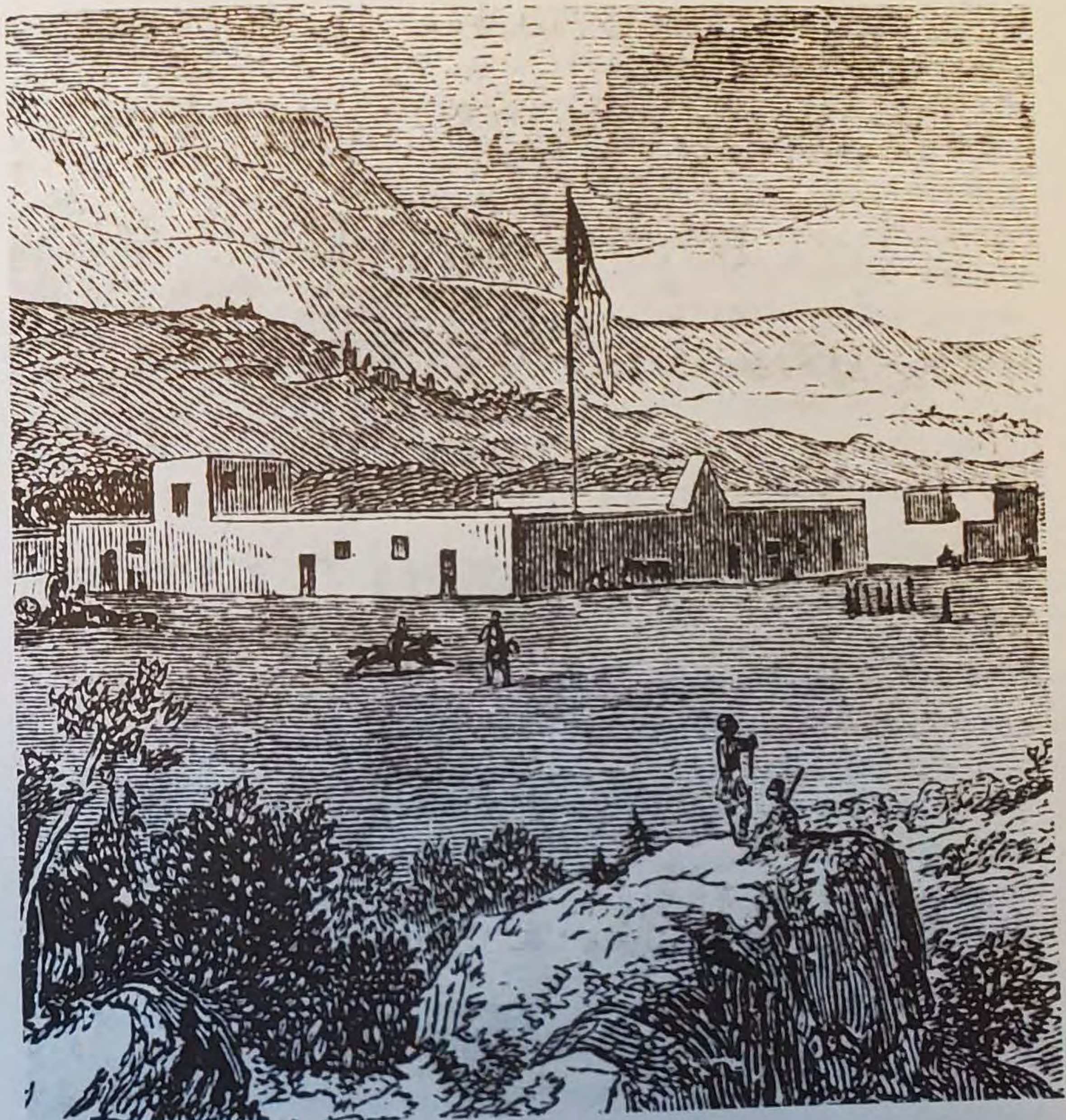
During the fall of 1849, Companies A and C were engaged in escorting supplies from the crossings of the Pecos River, while Company E conducted an expedition against the Indians at the Copper Mines near present day Santa Rita. On December 4, Company B and Major Shepherd were transferred to Dona Ana for station, leaving 5 officers and 125 men to garrison the post.

There were no further changes until May 13, 1850, when Colonel Craig and Company A left the post for Socorro, New Mexico, where they remained until November 12. Later this company was detailed as escort to the Boundary Commission Survey, serving at San Elizario, the Copper Mines, Santa Cruz and the Pimos Villages in Sonora, finally arriving at Warner's Ranch, California, on December 31, 1851, long after the El Paso post had been abandoned.

Company I under Colonel Chandler, left San Elizario on July 30, 1850, and marched to Cebolletta for station, arriving September 3. Company C at El Paso, and Company K at San Elizario, exchanged posts on September 28 due to the illness of Major Henry who died March 5, 1851. For the next twelve months Companies E and K were at El Paso with Major Van Horne, while Company C, Captain Johns, garrisoned San Elizario.

In September of 1851, all troops in the Department of New Mexico were transferred from the garrison towns, to new posts and cantonments better located to subdue the Indians. Headquarters and Companies E and K from El Paso were assigned to Fort Fillmore at Mesilla, Company B to Fort Conrad near Valverde, D and G to Fort Union, H to Cantonment Burgwin at Taos, C, F, and I to Fort Defiance in the Navajo Country. Company A was assigned to Fort Fillmore upon completion of its escort duty, but Colonel Craig was killed by deserters on the desert June 6, 1852. The Howitzer Battery, two brass 6-pounder field pieces with caissons and travelling forge, were left at Fort Union in 1852 by Lieutenant J. N. Ward, Company K, 3rd Infantry.

Colonel Chandler first commanded Fort Conrad, and then its replacement Fort Craig, from 1853 to 1855. Major Van Horne commanded at Fort Stanton during 1855 and 1856, and died in 1857 while commanding the Albuquerque garrison. Major Shepherd commanded Fort Defiance at the time of the Navajo attack upon that post in 1860.



National Archives

Post Opposite El Paso 1849-1851

FORT BLISS, TEXAS

1854 - 1860

The transfer of Major Van Horne's battalion of the 3rd Infantry through the Pass to the North served to improve conditions along the upper Rio Grande, but left the settlements below the pass unprotected against thievery and depredation by the Indians. In the late summer of 1853, Colonel J. K. F. Mansfield, Inspector General of the Army, after inspecting all posts and troops in the Department of New Mexico, found a post at El Paso to be indispensable and recommended that it be re-established for the protection of the citizens of the country. His recommendations were promptly put into effect as four companies of infantry arrived shortly before Christmas of the same year, to establish a new post at Magoffin's Ranch near El Paso del Norte.

At this time the Department of New Mexico was garrisoned by the ten companies of the 3rd Infantry, two companies of the 2nd Artillery, five companies of the 1st Dragoons, and four of the 2nd Dragoons. Colonel Mansfield reported an aggregate of 1624 officers and soldiers, 1743 muskets, 1583 rifles, 940 pistols, 1106 musketoons, 430 Colt revolvers, 5 6-pounder field guns, 13 12-pounder howitzers, and 2 24-pounder howitzers. The musketoon, he reported, was almost useless for Dragoon service, and there was little call for the mountain howitzer and field piece among the Indians. There were but 383 horses for the 483 Dragoons.

Since the troops in New Mexico were already stationed at ten posts, it became necessary to attach troops from the Department of Texas to provide the new garrison at El Paso del Norte. To build and command this additional post, Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Edmund B. Alexander with Companies B, E, I, and K of the 8th Infantry, were transferred from Fort Chadbourne, Texas. This was

the same Colonel Alexander who had led the 3rd Infantry into New Mexico in 1849. After commencing the construction of Fort Union in 1851, he had been promoted and transferred to the 8th Infantry at Fort Chadbourne.

The earliest Post Return of Fort Bliss on file at the National Archives is for the month of January, 1854. Bearing the heading, Post Return of "El Paso" Texas, and signed by Lt. Col. E. B. Alexander, it records the notations,

"This post was occupied January 11, 1854."
"Company C, 1st Infantry, temporarily at the post to escort the (wagon) train on its return."

The officers listed as present at the end of January were,

Edmund B. Alexander, Maj. & Bvt. Lt. Col.,	Commanding Officer
L. Wiley Crawford, Assistant Surgeon,	Field and Staff
James G. Snelling, 1st Lt. & Bvt. Capt.,	Field and Staff
George E. Pickett, 1st Lt. & Bvt. Capt.,	Commanding Company I
Thos. K. Jackson, 2nd Lt.,	Commanding Company E
William I. Mechling, 2nd Lt.,	Commanding Company B
James McIntosh, 2nd Lt.,	Commanding Company K
Frederick M. Follet, 2nd Lt.,	Company I

Listed as Absent

I. V. D. Reeve, Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col.,	Company B
John T. Sprague, Capt. & Bvt. Maj.,	Company E

Edmund B. Holloway, Capt.,	Company K
Alfred Crozet, 1st Lt.,	Company E
Silas T. Higgins, Bvt. 2nd Lt.,	Company B

The old regular captains seem to have preferred taking leave rather than long marches, for in addition to the above, Captain Bragg was not with his battery when it passed through El Paso with Washington's column, and Captain Magruder took leave in 1853 when his battery was ordered to the desert for escort duty.

The post returns for February and March bear the heading "Military Post opposite El Paso, Texas." The April return is headed "Fort Bliss, Texas," and notes that the post was named "Fort Bliss" on March 8, 1854, the actual order being received on April 29, 1854. It is reasonable to assume that the post was named after Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William W. S. Bliss, Chief of Staff for General Zachary Taylor in Mexico, and Adjutant General of the Western Department from 1850 until his death in 1853. Colonel Bliss is now interred in the National Cemetery at Fort Bliss, and his original memorial column stands on the main parade of the post.

Colonel Alexander remained in command throughout 1854, and the four companies maintained an average strength of forty men each for the same period. Captain and Brevet Major James Longstreet who had served as regimental adjutant during the war with Mexico, joined from leave on July 31, 1854, and assumed command of Company I. Thus Pickett became Longstreet's lieutenant nine years before he led his division of Longstreet's Corps in the charge at Gettysburg in 1863. It was also Pickett who had taken the 8th Infantry colors from the wounded Longstreet during the assault on Chapultepec Castle in 1847.

Captain Reeve rejoined in January of 1855, and Companies I and K under Captains Longstreet and Holloway left on an expedition against the Mescalero Indians. The records speak of a rendezvous

in the Guadalupe Mountain with Captain Ewell and Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart of the 1st Dragoons. This was the expedition upon which Captain Henry W. Stanton of the Dragoons was killed in action with the Apache Indians.

Colonel Alexander was relieved of command April 24, 1855, by reason of promotion and transfer, and Major Longstreet became the commanding officer. It was while Longstreet was in command that Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel John Bankhead Magruder of the 1st Artillery reported at Fort Bliss. Magruder was enroute to rejoin his company that was serving as escort for the Boundary Commission Survey. He had taken a long leave of absence in 1853, leaving his company of the 1st Artillery in California, to visit in the East. Upon arrival at Fort Bliss he was not permitted to travel west of the Rio Grande without an escort, and the mounted detachment of the 8th Infantry being otherwise engaged, he was required to remain at El Paso from May until October. To keep Magruder occupied, Longstreet appointed him an acting company commander of the 8th Infantry until his own company arrived on its way to Fort Clark.

Like all posts on the frontier, Fort Bliss was subjected to not only normal attrition and change, but also to the changing troop requirements within the Territory of New Mexico. In June, Major Sprague rejoined and took over command from Longstreet. Pickett was promoted and transferred, Crozet died, Follet resigned, and Mechling was dismissed. Colonel Reeve returned from a scout in August and relieved Sprague as post and battalion commander. In December, Major Sprague and Company E were transferred to Fort Stanton, reducing Fort Bliss to 111 officers and men.

On December 23, 1855, the post was visited by Brevet Brigadier General John Garland with a considerable staff and escort. Besides being the Commander of the Department of New Mexico, to which Fort Bliss was attached, General Garland was the father of Mrs. Longstreet. This lady, the center of a gay circle in the community,

was purported to have written penetrating letters to her father at Santa Fe regarding the post.

At the end of February, 1856, Colonel Reeve departed on a six months leave, turning the post over to Major Theophilus H. Holmes, a recent arrival. The Regiment of Mounted Rifles, enroute from Texas to New Mexico, halted in August at Fort Bliss for nearly two weeks. Captain John G. Walker's Company K was posted at Fort Bliss as the regiment moved out. At this time, Major Holmes had been ordered to Fort Stanton, and Colonel Reeve's leave had been unexpectedly extended until the end of the year. As a result, Captain Walker of the cavalry, became the post commander of the hitherto infantry post.

The cavalry regime was not to last long, for in October, Captain Walker and his company of cavalry were transferred to San Elizario to stop some minor thievery by the Indians, and Captain Longstreet again became the post commander. It was believed in some quarters, that the transfer of Captain Walker was made in order that General Garland's son-in-law might take command of Fort Bliss. This was one of General Garland's last orders, as a few days later he left the Department of New Mexico.

Since one company of the 8th Infantry was serving as escort for the Pacific Railroad survey party, the garrison was temporarily but two companies of infantry. Sergeant Otto Vernam of the 2nd Artillery was the Post Orderly Sergeant and Post Sergeant Major. In addition to the garrison, the post employed five citizens, one serving as guide and interpreter, one as blacksmith, and three as herders.

Lieutenant Du Bois who was stationed at Fort Bliss in 1856 with the cavalry, noted in his journal that "Life at the post was dull enough until the fiestas commenced, then bull fights and billiards, bailes and monte, intrigues and crimes, made gay and noisy scenes where but an hour before all was as monotonous as the desert."

During the spring and summer of 1857, the new Department Commander, Colonel B. L. E. Bonneville, directed a campaign

against the Gila Apaches. Three infantry-cavalry columns were to converge on about two thousand Apaches around the headwaters of the Gila River. Three companies from Fort Bliss were assigned to the southern column that assembled at Fort Thorn,

Company B, 8th Infantry,	2nd Lt. John R. Cooke
Company I, 8th Infantry,	1st Lt. Thos. K. Jackson
Company K, Mounted Rifles,	2nd Lt. John V. D. Du Bois

The troops left the post on April 20 for Fort Thorn, accompanied by a pack train of green mules which scattered in all directions as the column moved out. At Fort Thorn they were joined with two more companies of Rifles and one company of the 3rd Infantry, to form the southern column of 10 officers and 270 men under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Dixon S. Miles.

The battle of the Gila was fought on June 27, 1857. The cavalry, led by Colonel Loring of the Rifles and Major Steen of the Dragoons, drove the Apaches towards the infantry positions where 24 Indians were killed and 26 captured. Most of the Indians escaped. Two officers and seven men were wounded, including Lieutenant Lazelle of Fort Bliss who was acting as adjutant of the southern column.

On July 27, while most of the garrison was on the expedition, the post was treated to the spectacle of the Army Camel Train enroute from Camp Verde, Texas to Fort Tejon, California under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin L. Beale of the 1st Dragoons. The 28 camels were brought from Tripoli and Syria by direction of Secretary of War Jefferson Davis to see if they could supplement the horse and mule in our desert country. The camels proved their worth in helping to build a wagon road from Fort Defiance to Fort Tejon in 1858 and 1859.

The companies on the Gila expedition returned to Fort Bliss on September 8, having marched 1339 miles in a period of 124 days. Lieutenant Du Bois related in his diary that he "had hopes of being comfortable for a few days, though between escort duty and the annoyances of a post commanded by an infantry officer he did not

hope for much military pleasure." His hopes were short lived for Company K of the Rifles was ordered to Fort Union, and Captain Jones' Company D was sent to replace it at Fort Bliss. Company B, 8th Infantry was transferred to Fort Stanton in November, leaving two companies of infantry and one of cavalry at Fort Bliss.

The post was further reduced in 1858 when three companies of the 8th Infantry were stationed in New Mexico. Company E was at Fort Marcy commanded by Major Sprague, B and K were at Fort Stanton under Colonel Reeve. Major Longstreet was then at Fort Union as Paymaster, having transferred to the Pay Department in July. Major Holmes was in command at Fort Bliss with Company D of the Rifles, and Company I of the 8th Infantry.

In May, 1859, Company D of the Rifles exchanged posts with Company A at Fort Stanton, and Captain Washington L. Elliott of the cavalry relieved Major Holmes as the commanding officer of Fort Bliss. A rather unusual condition existed in Company A, Captain Elliott and his 1st Lieutenant William B. Lane having married sisters, the daughters of an Army Medical officer. Mrs. Lane in relating her Army experiences noted "that May 25 found them at the most delightful station they ever had—Fort Bliss,—the old and first Fort Bliss, far more pleasant than those of the same name which have succeeded it." She found the garrison very small, with some very pleasant people living at and near the post. The quarters were made comfortable by nailing down canvas to the hard dirt floors, and then carpeting. The adobe barracks occupied three sides of a tree shrouded parade ground, and almost at their doors flowed the muddy waters of the Rio Grande. Shopping was possible at Franklin, a mile and a half away.

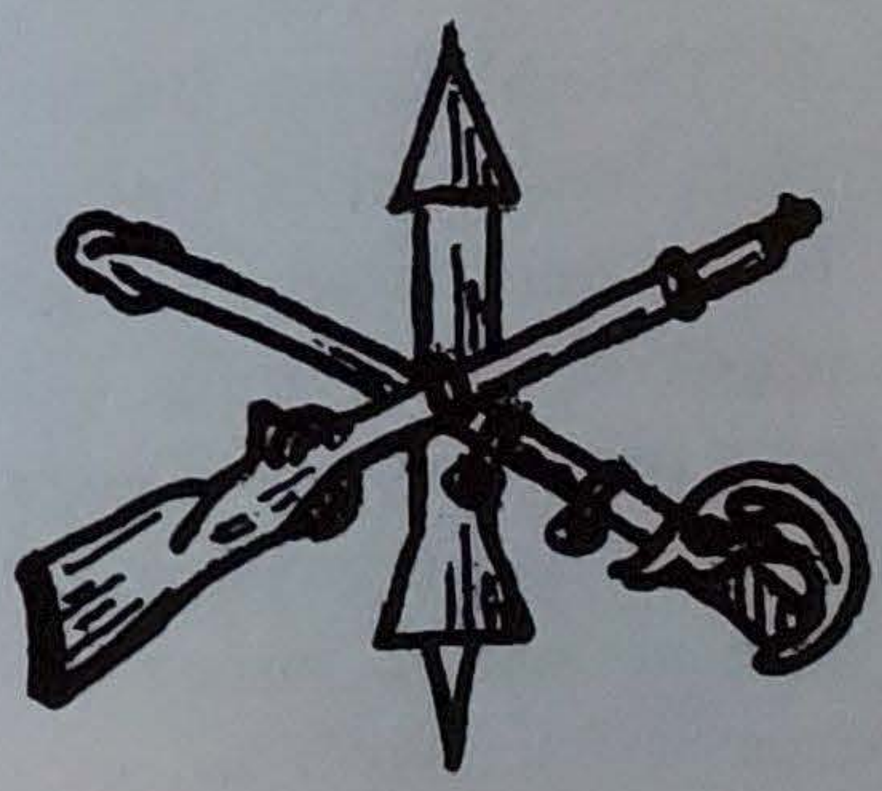
The Navajo campaign of 1859 involved most of the troops in the Department, including the company of cavalry from Fort Bliss. At the end of the campaign, Company K of the Rifles returned to Fort Bliss to relieve Company A, and Captain Walker again became the post commander. The return of the cavalry was a joyous affair, for Lieutenant Du Bois who became post adjutant, noted in his diary

that New Year's Day saw much visiting with toddies, egg-nog, dinner, music and dark-eyed senoritas.

In February, 1860, both companies of Rifles returned to New Mexico, and Captain Walker turned over the post to Lieutenant Jackson and Company I, 8th Infantry. Captain Thomas G. Pitcher arrived the following month and took command of the one company post. He remained in command until October, when he gave it back to Lieutenant Jackson, and departed on leave.

On December 8, 1860, Fort Bliss was restored to the Department of Texas, ending its temporary attachment to the Department of New Mexico. By the same order the garrison of Fort Bliss was reduced to three of the four companies of the 8th Infantry serving with the Department of New Mexico, and the fourth company was ordered to be put in march to Fort Davis, Texas.

The relief of the 8th Infantry, and also the 3rd Infantry, was made possible by the arrival in New Mexico of the 5th and 7th Infantry Regiments and a battalion each from the 10th Infantry and 2nd Dragoons, diverted from the Utah Expedition in the summer and fall of 1860. Lieutenant Colonel E. R. S. Canby who commanded three companies of the 10th Infantry, and Major Henry H. Sibley commanding two companies of the 2nd Dragoons, were to become the opposing Civil War commanders in the Territory of New Mexico.



CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

1861 - 1868

January of 1861 found only Company I at Fort Bliss with Lieutenant Thomas K. Jackson in command. The other three companies were still detached, with stations at Fort Breckinridge, Arizona, and Fort Fillmore and Hatch's Ranch, New Mexico. With communication by mounted courier and the movement of troops by marching, it was not until February 18 that the companies began to arrive at Fort Bliss. On February 22 all four companies were present and Colonel Reeve resumed command of the post and garrison. Three days later, Company E led by Lieutenant Frank, began the march to Fort Davis.

The State of Texas had passed an ordinance of secession on February 1, and this was followed on February 18 by the surrender order of Major General David E. Twiggs, commanding the Department of Texas. All military posts and public property were to be surrendered to local Confederate Commissioners.

Mr. Anson Mills, who had made the first surveys of El Paso and Fort Bliss, and one of the two persons in El Paso County who had voted against secession, was advised not to remain in town any longer. Being a former cadet at West Point, he decided to go to Washington and join the Federal forces. Before leaving by coach on March 9, he was invited to have dinner with Colonel Reeve and his adjutant Lieutenant Jones, the latter being a classmate at the Academy. During the course of the evening, Colonel Reeve remarked that "he did not want to obey General Twigg's order to surrender to the Texans because he had large government stores, which would be of great value in case of war to either the Government or the Confederates." He requested Mr. Mills to see the Secretary of War

and explain the circumstances, and get him verbal or written authority to take his command and this property into New Mexico.

Despite the efforts of Colonel Reeve and Mr. Mills, no orders were received, and on March 31, 1861, the post of Fort Bliss and Companies B, I, and K, 8th Infantry, were surrendered to the Confederate Commissioners. Lieutenant Jones, a Virginian, submitted his resignation the same day, and Major Rhett and Lieutenant Jackson, South Carolinians, resigned the next day. Dr. Haden of Mississippi and Lieutenant Peck of Tennessee were to follow suit later.

Officers on duty at Fort Bliss at the end of February, the date of the last post return, were,

I. V. D. Reeve, Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col.,	Commanding Officer
T. G. Rhett, Maj., Paymaster,	Field and Staff
J. M. Haden, Assistant Surgeon,	Field and Staff
Thos. K. Jackson, 1st Lt.,	Commanding Company I
T. M. Jones, 1st Lt.,	Commanding Company B
Layfayette Peck, 2nd Lt.,	Commanding Company K
H. M. Lazelle, 2nd Lt.,	Company I

By the articles of the surrender agreement, the troops were to be allowed to march to the coast, and there take transportation North. Some detachments garrisoning the interior posts such as Fort Bliss were unavoidably delayed in leaving the State, and on May 9, 1861, six companies of the 8th Infantry, commanded by Captain Reeve, were met at San Lucas Spring near San Antonio by Brigadier General Earl Van Dorn of Texas and forced to surrender unconditionally. Most of these troops were not paroled but were held as hostages in confinement until February, 1863.

In the spring of 1861 a considerable number of the officers on duty in the Southwest resigned to join the Provisional Army of the Confederacy. Most of them passed through Fort Bliss enroute to the South. Among them were Brigadier General Albert Sidney Johnston,

former commander of the Utah Expedition, Colonel William Wing Loring, the one-armed commander of the Department of New Mexico and the Regiment of Mounted Rifles, Lieutenant Colonel George B. Crittenden of the Rifles, Major James Longstreet, Pay Department, Major Henry H. Sibley, 2nd Dragoons, Major Theophilus H. Holmes, 8th Infantry, Captain Lafayette McLaws, 7th Infantry, Captains John G. Walker and Dabney H. Maury of the Rifles, and Lieutenants Laurence S. Baker, John R. Cooke, William H. Jackson, and Joseph Wheeler. This contingent provided the Confederacy with 1 general, 3 lieutenant generals, 5 major generals, and 4 brigadier generals.

The old post was unoccupied until mid-July, 1861, when Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor arrived with five companies of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles and a battery of the 2nd Texas Light Artillery to assert the sovereignty of the State of Texas. Encouraged by the warm welcome and enthusiastic reception of the secessionists at El Paso, Baylor moved into New Mexico and occupied Mesilla on July 25.

This action, followed by a skirmish on the outskirts of the town, caused the evacuation of Fort Fillmore and the subsequent surrender of its garrison, seven companies of the 7th Infantry and three troops of the Mounted Rifles, to Colonel Baylor at San Augustine Springs on July 27. Company A, Mounted Rifles, then commanded by Captain Lane, its horses stolen by secessionists, was relieved from duty at Fort Fillmore and departed as escort to a wagon train on July 25 thus avoiding the surrender. The sprightly Mrs. Lane accompanied the wagon train northward with her husband.

Fort Bliss was later used as an assembly area by the 4th, 5th, and 7th Texas Cavalry in preparation for the invasion of New Mexico. Brigadier General Henry H. Sibley, CSA, inventor of the Sibley tent, and said to be brother-in-law of Colonel Canby, used the post as his headquarters before the invasion and again in May of 1862 following the retreat from New Mexico. Sibley's Brigade had defeated Colonel Canby's regulars and Colonel Kit Carson's New

Mexico Volunteers at the battle of Valverde on February 21, and had captured Albuquerque and Santa Fe in March, only to meet with disaster at Glorieta Pass on March 28 while enroute to Fort Union. The destruction of the Confederate supply train near Apache Canyon by detachments of the 5th Infantry and the 1st Colorado Volunteers brought the campaign to an end. Sibley's straggling and starving command began arriving at Fort Bliss in early May, having suffered a fifty per cent loss in dead, wounded, sick, and prisoners of war.

Fort Bliss was burned out by the Confederates as they withdrew to San Antonio. Sibley's evacuation of the El Paso area was encouraged by the arrival of Colonel James H. Carleton's column of California Volunteers and a battery of the 3rd Artillery at Fort Thorn on July 4, 1862. After marching across the desert from Yuma, Carleton's troops furnished garrisons for posts in Arizona, New Mexico and west Texas. Several companies of the 1st and 5th California regiments were posted at Franklin and Hart's Mill until the end of the war. The regular battery stored its guns at Fort Fillmore and served as cavalry against the Indians until 1865.

The post returns of Fort Bliss were not resumed until October of 1865. The first return noted that the Field, Staff, and Band, and Companies K and G, 5th Infantry, left Franklin on October 15 and arrived at Fort Bliss the same day, distance marched 1 mile. By way of explanation, the 5th Infantry, had remained in New Mexico following the Confederate withdrawal, it being the only regular regiment to be retained in that Department throughout the war.

Captain David H. Brotherton who signed the report, was at the time acting as Regimental Commander of the 5th Infantry, Post Commander of Fort Bliss, and the Commanding Officer of Company K. Although he had been promoted to the rank of Brevet Major at the battle of Valverde, he made no use of the title. Captain Samuel Ovenshine commanded Company G. The regular garrison consisted of 2 officers and 88 men, with five additional officers on temporary duty in connection with rebuilding the post.

The deterioration of the post proved to be not as serious a problem as the intermittent destruction caused by the rampaging river. On March 1, 1868, the garrison, then two companies of the 35th Infantry, moved into a new post named Camp Concordia at Stephenson's Ranch. This new location was on higher ground about one mile northeast of the former post. Old Fort Bliss, with some of its buildings and corrals already washed away, was relegated to the muddy waters of the Rio Grande.

Of the former Fort Bliss officers who resigned in 1861 to join the Confederate Army, Longstreet and Holmes became lieutenant generals, Pickett and Walker were major generals, McIntosh and Cooke, brigadiers. In the Union forces, Alexander, Reeve, Elliott, Pitcher and Sprague served as regimental commanders, and with the exception of Sprague were brevetted to brigadier general in 1865. Elliott retired as a brevet major general.

Fort Bliss About 1865

CAMP CONCORDIA
1868 - 1877

Camp Concordia, like its two predecessors, was built of adobe on leased land. It differed however from the older posts, by virtue of some signs of permanency, and in the size of its garrison.

Built around a rectangular parade ground, with two large barracks on one side and six sets of officer's quarters on the other, it had the aspects of a regular military reservation. Its garrison on the other hand, was neither as large nor as permanent as that of the previous battalion posts.

As after every war, the army was undergoing a reduction and consolidation, so the new post spent much of its time at reorganization. The Indian frontier was slowly moving westward, and the troops being required elsewhere, the regular garrison dwindled to but one company of infantry. Upon occasion it was augmented by cavalry patrols.

The year 1869 produced many changes. The 35th Infantry was consolidated with, and became, the 15th Infantry. Captain Mason's two companies of the 15th Infantry at Fort Bliss were relieved in September by Major Merriam's company of the 41st Infantry from Fort Davis. In October, one company of the 38th Infantry from Fort Bayard arrived, and consolidated with Major Merriam's company of the 41st Infantry to form one company of the 24th Infantry. In the process, five regiments of infantry were reorganized as but two. The army was shrinking in size.

The designation of Camp Concordia did not last long, for on March 23, 1869, the Secretary of War authorized the name of Fort Bliss to be restored. In 1871, the company of the 24th Infantry was

relieved by one company of the 25th Infantry. There were no further changes until the post was abandoned in January, 1877, it then being too far removed from the scene of Indian activity. The annual reports of the Secretary of War lists the following units and their commanders:

1868

2 Companies, 35th Infantry, Capt. & Bvt. Brig. Gen. Edwin C. Mason

1869

1 Company, 24th Infantry, Maj. & Bvt. Col. Henry C. Merriam

1870

1 Company, 24th Infantry, Capt. & Bvt. Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Crandal

1871

1 Company, 25th Infantry, Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. Charles
1 Troop, 9th Cavalry Bentzoni

1872-74

1 Company, 25th Infantry, Capt. & Bvt. Col. Frank M. Coxe

1875-76

1 Company, 25th Infantry, Maj. & Bvt. Lt. Col. Zenas R. Bliss

The 35th Infantry, redesignated the 15th Infantry in 1869, was composed of white troops. The other regiments that subsequently served at the Concordia post were of colored troops. The garrison indicated no reluctance at leaving the post, having suffered severely from the effects of malaria and dysentery during its occupation. During its existence, the post provided protection against the lawless elements of the community, a fact that shortly became apparent.

The officers who commanded the Concordia post were as distinguished a group as the Longstreet, Pickett, Magruder, and Holmes roster at the old Fort Bliss of pre-Civil War days. Major Bliss and Major Merriam had both been awarded the Medal of Honor during the Civil War, and Captains Mason and Crandal had earned the title of Brevet Brigadier General during the same conflict. Both Bliss and Merriam were later to become major generals, and Mason was promoted to regular brigadier for gallantry against the Indians in the Lava Beds of California and at Clearwater, Idaho.

El Paso About 1870

THE GARRISON TOWN

1878 - 1880

The abandonment of the post at Concordia made possible a complete breakdown of law and order on both sides of the Rio Grande. Undersirable outcasts congregated in the El Paso area to bring about an upsurge of gambling, murder, and disorderly living in general. Ripe for trouble, the climax arrived in the form of a local war over the salt deposits at the base of Guadalupe Peak.

The ruling of a corrupt judge in the fall of 1877, that salt could no longer be removed without the payment of a fee, brought about mob rule at San Elizario, the center of the disturbance. Texas Rangers, sent to quell the disorder, were beseiged and several were killed, along with the judge.

At this point the Governor of Texas called on the Federal Government for assistance. On December 22, Colonel and Brevet Major General Edward Hatch, the District Commander, arrived at San Elizario with a mixed force of the 9th Cavalry and 15th Infantry from Forts Bayard, Davis, and Stanton. With the death of the judge, order had been restored at San Elizario, and the command marched to El Paso arriving on New Year's Day, 1878.

The Concordia post being in ruins, the troops were billited in empty warehouses at El Paso, holding their drills and parades on the public square. On March 16, 1878, the military board that investigated the uprising, again recommended that a permanent post be established at El Paso.

For nearly three years the garrison of two companies of the 15th Infantry and one troop of the 9th Cavalry remained quartered in the town of El Paso, commanded by Major Nathan W. Osborne.

Towards the end of 1879 arrangements were made to purchase rather than to lease, land for a new post, and 135 acres in the vicinity of Hart's Mill were acquired for the purpose.

Congress appropriated but $40,000 for both land and buildings, thus requiring the post to be built by troop labor to reduce costs. As a consequence, construction was interrupted by expeditions against the Indians who had broken away from both the San Carlos and Mescalero reservations under the leadership of Victorio. As soon as the buildings were ready, detachments were moved from town to the new location, that continued to be named Fort Bliss.

The town of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, was not incorporated as such until 1873. Prior to that time it had been called both Franklin and El Paso indiscriminately. El Paso del Norte, Mexico, did not change its name officially until 1882, when it became Cuidad Juarez. El Paso County, Texas, was created in 1850 with the first County Seat being located at San Elizario. The population of El Paso in 1859 consisted of 44 Anglos and about 300 Mexicans. Twenty years later in 1879, there were but 23 Anglos and 150 Mexicans, one half the population having left to seek refuge from the lawless elements.

Post at Hart's Mill 1880 - 1893

FORT BLISS AT HART'S MILL

1880 - 1893

No one knows who built the first dam at Hart's Mill, maintained for years by first the Spaniards, and then by the Mexicans, to supply water for the irrigation canals or acequias of the El Paso area. But it was a convenient site for the new post, located as it was overlooking the gorge of the Rio Grande, at the narrows above El Paso del Norte. The reservation stretched for one thousand yards along the river just above the dam. There should be no dysentery there.

Guard Mount at Hart's Mill

The barracks and headquarters buildings were on the north side of the parade ground, which sloped down towards the officer's line along the river. Boasting gabled roofs with shingles, and two story officer's quarters with porches, it was a considerable improvement over the previous posts with their earthen floors and thatched roofs. Fort Bliss had finally arrived at the Pass to the North.

This was no frontier post, for in 1881, the Southern Pacific Railroad laid its tracks right across the parade ground, and the Santa Fe followed suit. Neverless, there was still some Indian activity on tap, for the Indians were unhappy with life on the reservations and broke away frequently to raid on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Although Victorio had been killed by the Mexican army in 1880, other renegade bands led by Chato, Geronimo, Loco, and Nana, were still to be contended with. This being a problem for mounted troops, Fort Bliss became a station where cavalry patrols rested and refitted between expeditions. The entire 10th Cavalry, led by Colonel and Brevet Major General Benjamin H. Grierson, halted at Fort Bliss in the spring of 1885 while enroute to Arizona to join General George Crook in the pursuit of Geronimo. With the surrender of Geronimo's band in 1886, such activity came to an end. One troop of the 9th Cavalry was stationed at Fort Bliss until 1881, otherwise two companies of infantry became the usual garrison:

1881

2 Companies, 15th Infantry, Capt. Henry R. Brinkerhoff
1 Troop, 9th Cavalry

1882

2 Companies, 23rd Infantry, Capt. Otis W. Pollock

1883

2 Companies, 23rd Infantry, Maj. & Bvt. Lt. Col. Joshua S. Fletcher, Jr.

1884-85

2 Companies, 10th Infantry, Maj. Hamilton S. Hawkins

1886

3 Companies, 10th Infantry, Capt. & Bvt. Col. Gregory Barrett

1887

2 Companies, 16th Infantry, Col. Matthew M. Blunt

1888

2 Companies, 5th Infantry, Capt. & Bvt. Maj. Ezra P. Ewers

1889-90

2 Companies, 5th Infantry, Col. Nathan W. Osborne

1891-93

2 Companies, 23rd Infantry, Maj. James Henton

During the Spanish-American War, Major Hawkins became a major general of Volunteers, and Captain Ewers was promoted a brigadier. Colonel Osborne commanded Fort Bliss twice, 1878-80 and 1889-90.

Fort Bliss 1915

FORT BLISS AT LA NORIA MESA

1893 - 1913

Recognizing the need for a larger and more suitable location, Congress in 1890 appropriated $150,000 for the purpose of purchasing not less than one thousand acres within ten miles of El Paso, and constructing the necessary buildings. One year later the original appropriation was increased by $150,000 in additional funds. The site selected, on the rim of La Noria Mesa, was five miles northeast of El Paso.

Captain George Ruhlen, the constructing quartermaster, then pushed to completion the headquarters and mess hall building flanked on either side by a double barrack, a hospital, guard house, store house, quartermaster corral, fourteen sets of officers quarters, and three sets of non-commissioned officers quarters. A cavalry stable and other buildings were added later.

The new post was occupied in October, 1893, by the headquarters and four companies of the 18th Infantry. The first commanding officer was Colonel Henry M. Lazelle, who had served as a second lieutenant at old Fort Bliss and had been present upon its surrender in 1861. There were about 500 men in the garrison, the largest concentration to date.

In 1895, two companies were transferred to Fort Sam Houston, to be replaced by one troop of the 5th Cavalry the following year. There were no further changes until the beginning of the war with Spain in 1898. The regular troops then departed, to be replaced, first by one troop of the 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry, and later by one company of the 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry.

In 1899, one troop of the 10th Cavalry and one company of the 25th Infantry, both colored, arrived to relieve the Texas Volunteers

who were then mustered out of the service. Captain Robert H. R. Loughborough commanded the post until 1901. The meeting of Presidents Taft and Diaz at El Paso in 1909 brought about a temporary reinforcement of the garrison, troops from Fort Clark and Fort Sam Houston joining in the ceremonies with the Fort Bliss command. Other units and their commanders were:

1901

4 Companies, 18th Infantry, Lt. Col. Henry H. Adams
1 Troop, 12th Cavalry

1902

4 Companies, 12th Infantry, Lt. Col. Colville P. Terrett

1903

4 Companies, 12th Infantry, Lt. Col. Henry L. Haskell

1904

4 Companies, 29th Infantry, Lt. Col. Herbert S. Foster

1905

4 Companies, 29th Infantry, Maj. Ammon A. Augur

1906

4 Companies, 25th Infantry, Col. Ralph W. Hoyt

1907-10

4 Companies, 19th Infantry, Col. Joseph F. Huston

1911

4 Companies, 23rd Infantry, Col. Edwin F. Glenn

1912

4 Troops, 4th Cavalry, Col. Edgar Z. Steever, until June, then
2nd Cavalry Regiment, Col. Frank West

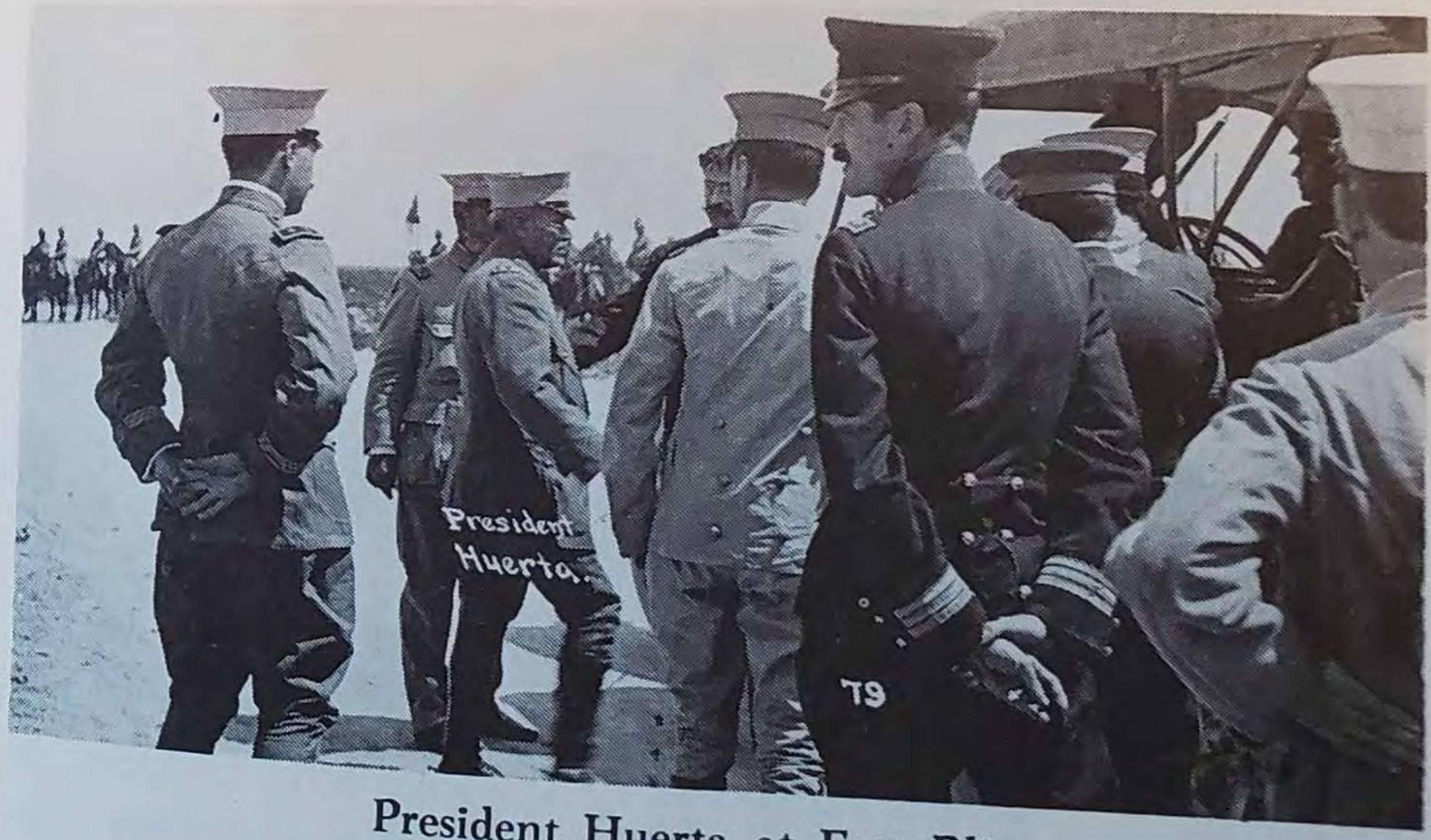
1913

15th Cavalry Regiment, Col. Joseph Garrard

BORDER SERVICE

1914 - 1917

Trouble had been brewing in Mexico ever since the revolution of Francisco Madero had forced Porfirio Diaz to resign the presidency in 1911. After his troops had captured Juarez, Madero had gone to Mexico City and assumed the Presidency, only to be faced with counter revolution from several directions. With fighting taking place in the streets of the capitol in 1913, General Victoriano Huerta caused Madero to be assasinated and named himself provisional president of Mexico. The United States then placed an embargo on arms and ammunition to Mexico, and refused to recognize Huerta as president. Before the year was out, Francisco Villa had retaken Juarez for the Carranza Constitutionalist junta with whom the United States sympathized.



President Huerta at Fort Bliss

Held as prisoners at Fort Bliss were about 5000 refugees from Mexico, including some of Huerta's Federal soldiers who had crossed

the border at Presidio and other points. The 15th Cavalry regiment then garrisoned the post, it having relieved the 2nd Cavalry in November, 1913. Colonel Joseph Garrand commanded this garrison of regimental strength.

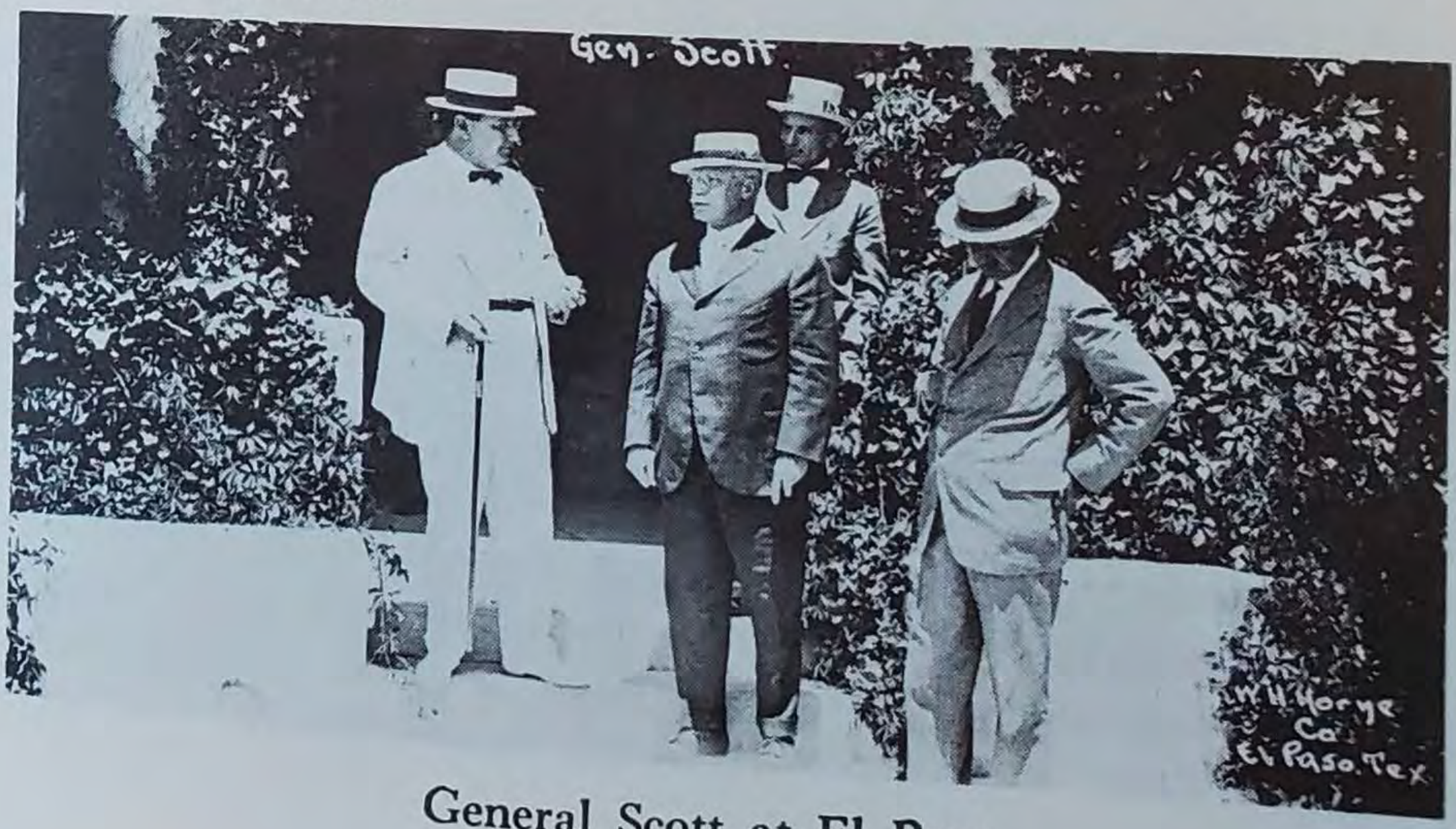
Following the Tampico affair in the spring of 1914, the 5th Infantry Brigade, reinforced by the 6th Cavalry and 4th Field Artillery, under Brigadier General Frederick Funston was sent by sea to seize Vera Cruz. The seizure of this important coastal city caused Huerta to resign the Presidency on July 15, and one month later Venustiano Carranza entered Mexico City to assume the Executive Power. Villa then repudiated Carranza and took the field against him. General Funston evacuated Vera Cruz on November 23, 1914.

Generals Obregon and Funston at El Paso

During this period of activity, there were assembled at Fort Bliss the 8th Infantry Brigade consisting of the 6th, 16th, and 20th Infantry regiments, the 15th Cavalry, and the 3rd Field Artillery. For the first time in its history, the regular garrison of Fort Bliss was commanded by a general officer, Brigadier General John J. Pershing.

On October 18, 1915, the 2nd Division, which had been mobilized at Galveston and Texas City since 1913, was broken up for border duty. The 4th Field Artillery, Pack, then joined the Fort Bliss command, and the 8th Cavalry replaced the 15th Cavalry. Also in 1915, an aviation field was established on the reservation for use by aeroplanes of the 1st Aero Squadron, Signal Corps, in transit between Fort Sam Houston and points along the border.

Villa, on March 9, 1916, with between 500 and 1000 men attacked the town of Columbus, New Mexico, garrisoned by the 13th Cavalry. The next day General Pershing was named to command an expedition into Mexico to pursue and disperse the band that attacked Columbus. On March 13, the 6th and 16th Infantry, and one battalion of the 4th Field Artillery, all from El Paso, arrived at Columbus to join the expedition. The El Paso troops, with the 13th Cavalry from Columbus crossed into Mexico at noon March 15. The 11th Cavalry was to follow. Eighty miles to the west, General Pershing crossed the Border at Culberson's Ranch with the 7th and 10th Cavalry and one battery of the 6th Field Artillery, Horse. The two columns numbered slightly over 4000 men. The entire regular army in the United States, with the exception of a regiment of cavalry and some of the coast artillery, was now either on the border or with the expedition.



General Scott at El Paso

On April 28, and for two weeks following, Major General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the Army, and General Funston commanding the Southern Department, held a series of conferences at El Paso and Juarez with the Mexican Minister of War, General Alvaro Obregon. A tentative agreement was reached, to the effect that the expedition would be withdrawn when the Mexican Government could preserve order along the border. This Carranza refused to sign, reflecting an hostile attitude on the part of the Mexican Government. An invasion of Texas in the direction of San Antonio was possible.

On Villa's Trail — 1916

To forestall such an action, the State Militia of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona had been called into service on May 9, 1916. The strong position now taken by the Mexican Government prompted an additional call on June 18, upon those States having complete divisions or brigades. Between calls the name of the State Militia had been changed to the "National Guard." These troops had been in the process of forming twelve tactical divisions at the time they were called up. Only the 6th Division of New York, and the 7th Division from Pennsylvania, approached full complement. In general, there was more infantry than needed, and very little cavalry and artillery. Consequently most of the National Guard was assigned where required, and only the New York Division along the lower Rio Grande, and the Pennsylvania Division at El Paso remained Intact.

Also stationed in the El Paso area were the three infantry brigades of the 9th Division from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; the Kentucky and Tennessee Brigades of the 10th Division; the Michigan and Ohio Brigades of the 11th Division; and the Massachusetts Brigade of the 5th Division. There were also smaller units from other States. With the regular 7th, 20th, 23rd, and 34th Infantry, the 8th and 17th Cavalry, and the 5th and 8th Field Artillery at Fort Bliss, the military population reached over 60,000 men. Colonel Peyton C. March who commanded the 8th Field Artillery became the Chief of Staff of the Army during the First World War. Brigadier General George Bell was in command of Fort Bliss, and Major General Clement commanded the Pennsylvania Division.

Infantry and Pack Artillery Enter Mexico

An agreement finally having been reached by the United States and Mexican Governments regarding patrol of the border, the expeditionary force began its withdrawal from Mexico on January 30, 1917. The last troops crossed into the United States at Columbus on February 5, and on February 16, General Funston was ordered to send home all the National Guard then on the border. Before the movement could be completed, President Wilson called into service or directed the retention in service of a large part of the National Guard.

CAVALRY POST

1917 - 1943

With the departure of the National Guard, and the assignment of the regular infantry and field artillery regiments to the newly created infantry divisions, the mission of patrolling the border became a cavalry project. Of the seventeen cavalry regiments, all were on the border with the exception of one regiment in Hawaii, and one squadron in Panama. Only the 2nd Cavalry was ordered to France.

Headquarters of the wartime 15th Cavalry Division was located at Fort Bliss, and the 5th, 7th, 11th, and 13th Cavalry with the 82nd Field Artillery were quartered in tents at Camp Stewart near the site of the present Center Golf Course just north of the main post. Camp Stewart had previously been the station of the Pennsylvania Division and the 5th and 8th Field Artillery. Also present for brief periods were the 8th and 17th Cavalry, the 13th Field Artillery, and the 7th and 20th Infantry. Major General Robert L. Howze, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry against the Sioux Indians, commanded the post from 1919 until 1925.

In 1919 the 5th Cavalry was relieved by the 8th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, and the 11th and 13th Cavalry departed. General Howze then became instrumental in organizing the 1st Cavalry Division which was activated as a regular army division on September 12, 1921. The 1st and 5th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Brigade were stationed at Camp Marfa and Fort Clark. The remainder of the division, Division Headquarters, Special Troops, 2nd Cavalry Brigade, 7th and 8th Cavalry, 82nd Field Artillery Battalion, Horse, 8th Mounted Engineers, 1st Medical Squadron, 1st Armored Car Troop, 1st Signal Troop, and the Division Pack Trains were stationed at Fort Bliss.

The 8th Mounted Engineers were transferred to Fort McIntosh, Texas in 1928, and the 82nd Field Artillery expanded into a regiment in 1934, took over the vacated engineer barracks at the north end of the post. In 1932, the 12th Cavalry at Forts Ringgold and Brown replaced the 1st Cavalry regiment in the division organization, the latter unit having been mechanized and transferred.

In addition to marches and maneuvers, the 1st Cavalry Division was called upon in 1919 to break up Villista forces assembled near the Race Track at Juarez, Mexico. Effects of the 82nd Field Artillery's fire are still visible in the grandstand. Again in 1929, elements of the division were deployed from El Paso to Douglas, Arizona to safeguard the border during the two months revolution of General Jose Escobar. During a rebel attack on Juarez, considerable rifle fire crossed the river until Brigadier General George Moseley, Fort Bliss commander, crossed into Juarez and persuaded the Federal commander to surrender the city. The Federal troops of Mexico were interned at Fort Bliss in two riding halls for about one month, then were sent to reinforce their garrison at Naco.

During the fall of 1937, the Fort Bliss troops engaged in the Provisional Infantry Division Tests at Fort Sam Houston. The so-called "P. I. D." developed the partially motorized triangular division that was employed in World War II. After returning to Fort Bliss and reconditioning the horses, the division, in the spring of 1938 conducted tests of a Provisional Cavalry Division at Balmorhea, Texas.

In the fall of 1940, the 56th Cavalry Brigade of the Texas National Guard, joined the division at Fort Bliss for intensive training in connection with the limited emergency. It was relieved in early 1941 by the regular 1st Cavalry Brigade. With the activation of the 61st and 62nd Field Artillery Battalions, the strength of the division rose to 10,110 men. It was not until February, 1943, that orders alerted the division for overseas service as a dismounted unit. Horses and horse equipment were turned in, and the transition to a dismounted unit was completed in time to clear the post on June

18, 1943. The 99th Field Artillery Battalion, Pack, joined the division prior to departure.

POST COMMANDERS

1917	Col. John W. Heard
	Col. William D. Beach
	Col. George T. Langhorne
	Col. Edward Anderson
1918	Brig. Gen. Robert L. Howze
	Brig. Gen. James J. Hornbrook

POST AND DIVISION COMMANDERS

1919-1923	Maj. Gen. Robert L. Howze
1924-1926	Brig. Gen. Joseph C. Castner
1926-1927	Brig. Gen. Edwin D. Winans
1928-1929	Brig. Gen. George V. Moseley
1930	Brig. Gen. George C. Barnhart
1930-1932	Brig. Gen. Walter C. Short
1933	Maj. Gen. Frank R. McCoy
1934-1935	Brig. Gen. Walter C. Short
1936	Brig. Gen. Hamilton S. Hawkins
1937-1938	Brig. Gen. Ben Lear, Jr.
1939	Brig. Gen. Kenyon A. Joyce
1939-1940	Brig. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Jr.
1941	Maj. Gen. Innis P. Swift

Colonel Heard was awarded the Medal of Honor in Cuba in 1898. General Hawkins was the son of Major Hamilton S. Hawkins, 10th Infantry, who commanded Fort Bliss in 1884 and 1885. His sister was the wife of another Fort Bliss commander, General Robert L. Howze.

The 1st Cavalry Division, first to enter Manila and first to occupy Tokyo, participated in the Admiralty, Leyte-Samar, and Luzon Campaigns during 1944 and 1945. The division lost 1211 men killed in action, and 4167 wounded, with a loss to the enemy of 24,097 killed and 1567 captured.

WILLIAM BEAUMONT GENERAL HOSPITAL

1920 -

On June 26, 1920, the construction of William Beaumont General Hospital, on the Fort Bliss Reservation, was authorized. The hospital was named for Major Surgeon William Beaumont who entered the service as a Surgeon's Mate with the 16th Infantry in 1812, and who served with Colonel Pike's command in the assault upon York, Upper Canada. Major Beaumont, who resigned in 1839, has been referred to as "The pioneer physiologist of the United States."

Opened on July 1, 1921, the hospital was completed in 1922 and has been in continuous service since that date. During World War II the hospital trained 16,000 Medical Corpsmen, and treated thousands of casualties from both the European and Pacific Theatres. It is now the station of the 106th General Hospital.

COMMANDERS

1921-1922	Colonel W. R. Eastman
1922-1927	Colonel M. A. W. Shockley
1927-1928	Colonel Reuben Miller
1928-1931	Colonel W. H. Moncrief
1931-1937	Colonel Henry F. Pipes
1937-1945	Colonel George H. Edwards
1945-1948	Colonel George W. Reyer
1948-1951	Colonel James E. Yarbrough
1951-1952	Colonel Walter C. Royals
1953-1957	Colonel Abner Zehm
1957-1958	Brig. Gen. L. Holmes Ginn, Jr.
1958-1960	Brig. Gen. Clinton S. Lyter
1960-	Brig. Gen. James B. Stapleton

BIGGS FIELD

1920 -

The 1st Aero Squadron, the first organization of its kind in the United States Army, was ordered to join the Punitive Expedition on March 12, 1916. Two days later it arrived at Fort Bliss by rail with eight airplanes, 11 officer pilots, and 84 enlisted men. Here it was joined by one Medical Officer and one enlisted man, and received two additional trucks. The squadron, commanded by Captain Benjamin Foulois, Signal Corps, made its first reconnaissance flight into Mexico from Columbus on March 16, 1916.

Again in 1919, the assembly of Villista forces near Juarez caused a rapid grouping of Aero Squadrons at the Fort Bliss Flying Field. Arriving on June 18 was the 11th Aero Squadron led by the ace Major Edgar Tobin. It was soon joined by the 20th Aero Squadron, Lieutenant D. M. Myers, and the 96th Aero Squadron, Lieutenant M. S. Fairchild. In August, Major Tobin was relieved by Major Leo A. Walton as commanding officer of the field. In November the 104th Aero Squadron relieved the 11th Aero Squadron, and the group was redesignated the 1st Surveillance Group. Headquarters was located at the College of Mines building just south of the quartermaster warehouse area, with barracks, hangars, and flying field adjoining. The group, including other squadrons, performed border patrol duty from Brownsville, Texas to San Diego, California.

In 1920 only the 12th Observation Squadron, Captain Thomas W. Hastey, and the 8th Airship Company, 1st Lieutenant John W. Shoptaw, were stationed at Fort Bliss. Major Leo G. Heffernan was the group commander. Both Spad and De Haviland airplanes were in use at the heavier-than-air field, and a dirigible balloon was moored at the balloon hangar on the lighter-than-air field northeast of Fort Bliss. One of the officers of the 12th Observation Squadron

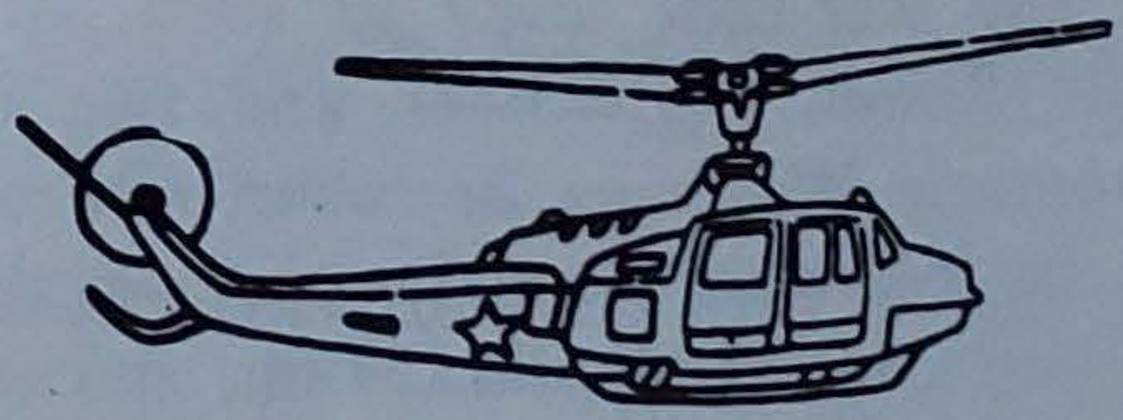
was 1st Lieutenant Claire L. Chennault, who in World War II commanded the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force as a Major General.

The 8th Airship Company was deactivated in 1922, and on January 5, 1925, the heavier-than-air field was named Biggs Field in honor of 1st Lieutenant James B. Biggs, a native El Pasoan who was killed in France while testing a new type airplane. He had previously flown against the Richthofen Circus, and was credited with destroying four enemy planes.

In 1926 the original Fort Bliss field was closed and a care-taking detachment took over the balloon hangar field that now assumed the name of Biggs Field. First Lieutenant William L. Boyd commanded the field from 1932 until 1937 when Lieutenant Colonel Guy Kirksey took cmmand. Elements of an observation squadron were stationed at Biggs Field until 1940 when mobilization brought the 102nd Squadron of the Colorado National Guard to the field to tow targets for the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center.

Relocated to the northeast of Fort Bliss, Biggs Field was vastly expanded for the training of heavy bombardment crews under the administration of the 2nd Air Force. Headquarters of the 20th Bombardment Wing was located at the field during World War II.

With the establishment of a separate Air Force in 1947, the field became an air base of the Strategic Air Command, and was redesignated Biggs Air Force Base. The base was vacated by the Air Force on July 1, 1966, becoming Biggs Army Air Field. As such it was occupied by the Army Aviation Section of the Air Defense Center.



ARTILLERY POST

1943 -

During the First World War, the cavalry had taken over Fort Bliss from the infantry. From its early beginnings in 1849, the post had been primarily an infantry station, with cavalry attached from time to time.

With the departure of the cavalry during World War II, the artillery moved in to create the greatly expanded Fort Bliss of the present day. During the border trouble of 1916, most of the regular field artillery had ben assembled at El Paso. Now it was the turn of the Anti-Aircraft and Air Defense Artillery.

It all began during the winter of 1940-41 with the formation of the 39th Coast Artillery Brigade, which consisted of the regular 63rd and 79th Coast Artillery regiments and the 200th, 202nd, 206th, and 260th regiments of the National Guard from New Mexico, Illinois, Arkansas, and the District of Columbia. In 1942 these units were designated Anti-Aircraft Artillery, and as such the New Mexico regiment served with distinction at Clark Field and on Corregidor. In 1944 the Anti-Aircraft Artillery School was moved from North Carolina to Fort Bliss. With it came the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Board, thus making the post the center of all such activity in the country.

German and Italian prisoners of war, captured in Africa, were held at Fort Bliss and nearby areas until the end of the war in the European Theatre. They were then returned to their native lands.

The demobilization of the war-time army in 1945 reduced the Anti-Aircraft Center to the Board, the School, and two battalions of artillery, the 59th Automatic Weapons Battalion and the 384th Gun Battalion. In July of the following year, the post was designated the Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Guided Missile Center, and the transi-

tion from guns to missiles was begun. In 1946, the launching of missiles began with an intensive firing program of captured V-2 rockets, under the supervision of German scientists who were quartered in the Base Hospital area at Fort Bliss.

The 1st Guided Missile Battalion, activated with the new mission of the Center, made its first firing of an American made rocket in February, 1947. The missile was the WAC Corporal, a liquid propellant rocket. This successful firing of a missile by artillery troops, led to an expansion of three missile battalions, and later the organization of the 1st Guided Missile Brigade, the 6th Artillery Group, and the 61st Ordnance Group.

The Korean War caused the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Replacement Center to be reactivated in 1950, and with the exception of brief periods, it has continued as an Army Training Center, to develop qualified replacements for units stationed at home and abroad. Also activated were the 31st, 34th, and 35th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigades which were joined by the 102nd Brigade from New York and the 108th Brigade from Georgia.

On July 1, 1957, Fort Bliss was designated the U. S. Army Air Defense Center. As such it has provided the training of Anti-aircraft Artillerymen, both as individuals and as units, through three generations of missiles — Nike Ajax, Nike Hercules, and Nike Zeus, as well as the Hawk low altitude missile. Its activities extending from the basic instruction of the recruit, through the complex course for senior officers.

During the summer of 1964 the post was augmented by the arrival of a battalion of the 27th Artillery, a battalion of the 8th Artillery, the 31st Engineer Battalion, the 85th Evacuation Hospital and some company size units transferred from Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. The 8th Artillery was organized at Fort Bliss in 1916. Many Fort Bliss units were deployed in Viet Nam. In 1966 the German Air Force Training Activity was transferred from Aachen, Germany to Fort Bliss to make use of the Center facilities. And in 1972 the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Sergeant Major's Academy arrived for station.

With more than a million acres of land at its disposal, and 3500 buildings in use by over 20,000 troops, Fort Bliss carries on the same tradition of service that the 257 officers and men of the 3rd Infanty brought to El Paso del Norte in 1849.

POST COMMANDERS

1941 Col. Frederick D. Griffith

1942 Col. Edgar W. Taulbee

1943 Col. Matthew H. Tomlinson

1944 Col. John K. Brown

1945 Col. Frank L. Whittaker

1946 Brig. Gen. George J. Forster

POST AND CENTER COMMANDERS

1946 Col. Robert H. Van Volkenburgh

1946 - 1950 Maj. Gen. John L. Homer

1950 - 1952 Maj. Gen. John T. Lewis

1952 - 1954 Maj. Gen. Stanley R. Mickelson

1954 - 1956 Maj. Gen. Paul W. Rutledge

1956 - 1957 Maj. Gen. Robert J. Wood

1957 - 1961 Maj. Gen. Sam C. Russell

1961 - 1962 Maj. Gen. Marshall S. Carter

1962 - 1965 Maj. Gen. Tom V. Stayton

1965 - 1967 Maj. Gen. George T. Powers III

1967 - 1968 Maj. Gen. George V. Underwood

1968 - 1971 Maj. Gen. Richard T. Cassidy

1971 - 1973 Maj. Gen. Raymond L. Shoemaker

1973 - Maj. Gen. Gen. C. J. Le Van

In 1962 General Robert J. Wood was appointed a full general in the United States Army, a distinction achieved by only one other Fort Bliss commander, General John J. Pershing.

APPENDIX I

Statement of Indian Depredations committed in the valley of El Paso, El Paso County, State of Texas from the month of September 1851 to the month of October 1853 inclusive as drawn up by the Hon. Joel L. Ankrim, Judge of the District Court.

* * *

Previous to 1849 the Americans had but little interest and expected but little influence in the Valley of El Paso, in that year the emigration to California commenced, and in September the 3rd Infantry commanded by Major Van Horne arrived: in August the Indians swept the valley of stock and in an effort to recover it Major E. Steen was seriously wounded being at that time at Dona Ana. Major Van Horne stationed a portion of his command in front of El Paso and at San Elizario and the troops remained with us until about the month of September 1851 when they were withdrawn by order of Colonel Sumner to the point now occupied at Fort Fillmore. During the two years that the troops were with us the only outrage perpetrated or attempted was an attack upon Mr. Coon's train in November 1849 at the Guadalupe Mountains about 100 miles from the valley of El Paso; Mr. Coon lost some stock, had one man killed and one wounded; which constitutes the entire loss of life and on this side of the Pecos River during the two years ending in September 1851, during which time the Troops were with us, and it may be observed that these troops were Infantry and the effect was the result of their presence for they were powerless for Indian difficulties.

Let me now review the occurances in the El Paso Valley during the two years since the troops were withdrawn. In February 1852 about 4 months after the Troops left us, the Indians began their depredations by taking stock; broke down Captain Skillman's Corral wall at his residence, and therefrom took various mules and horses. At the same time some Indians attacked his party carrying mail

about 100 miles from this valley and took a greater part of the animals.

About the same time like depredations were committed at Socorro.

In about the month of May San Elizario suffered in a like manner to the amount of 80 head of stock.

About the same time Mr. Magoffin's Corral was broken open, and animals taken therefrom to the amount of 43.

About August 12th Majors Hoppin and Hubbell lost all their mules and horses (between 40 and 50 head) while grazing in sight of the former station of the troops at Mr. Smith's place.

About the same time two men were killed at Mr. White's Ranch 8 miles above El Paso, and emigrants were robbed of their stock near the Guadalupe Mountains. Shortly afterwards Captain Skillman again had his corral broken down at his dwelling and animals taken. On or about September 4 men were killed on the road between this place and the Pecos River and about the 15th of October Captain Skillman's Corral was again broken down and robbed of its stock.

The depredations of 1853 commenced in March at San Elizario, a large amount of stock was driven off and a few animals recaptured by the citizens.

In May a herd of sheep belonging to Mr. Hart was destroyed and the shepherd killed within ½ mile of his dwelling.

Smith's train was robbed of 60 head of animals on the road to San Antonio to this place about the same time.

Captain Wallace with the mail, at this time had a man mortally wounded, who barely lived to be brought to San Elizario.

Captain Wallace was again attacked on the same trip.

On the 4th July last great loss was sustained at Isleta.

The last day of July the Indians were discovered in the settlement of San Elizario and being pursued fled towards the mountains,

and the night of 1st August stole stock from Ben Ryan at the Cornudas and being followed by 13 well armed men on the morning of the 2nd gave battle and killed 10 out of the 13 of our people.

In the month of August 1853 Mr. Magoffin had the whole of his stock stolen from his ranches.

The Property of the U. S.-Mexican Boundary Commission was taken about the same time.

In March of this year Mr. Magoffin's corral was broken down and stock taken therefrom numbering 11 animals.

In September the Indians made an attack on Mr. Magoffin's herd of mules while grazing at Canutillo and six were stolen.

About the same time while two men in the employment of Dr. Raphael Armijo were searching for some lost animals, they were attacked by Indians within ½ mile of Mr. Smith's place and one of them seriously wounded in the leg with an arrow.

In the month of October 5 animals were stolen from Mr. Magoffin's ranch, Indians were pursued and chased to the vicinity of the Sacramento Mountains.

The summary will read as follows:—in the 24 months since the troops left us, we have had in the valley of El Paso, or in the roads approaching it 23 attacks from Indians, all of which have been attended with loss of property and some loss of life, in the same space of time we have lost 18 men and I believe the average value of property taken by the Indians during the same period may safely be estimated at $2000, to say nothing of the general interruption of business from these repeated attacks, and the non-security of life and property.

APPENDIX II

Inspector Generals Office
El Paso del Norte, N. Mexico
October 12th, 1850.

General,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report of the inspection of the troops at this post.

E. Company)
) 3d Infantry — total present 81.
K. ")

Officers present & absent.

Capt. & Bt. Maj. J. Van Horne, 3d Inf. Comdg. Post.
Asst. Surgeon Lyman Stone, U. S. Army.
Capt. & Bt. Maj. W. S. Henry, K. Co., 3d Inf. absent on General Recruiting service, since Aug. 26/50.
1st Lt. & Bt. Maj. I. B. Richardson, on leave of absence since Oct. 10/50.
1st Lt. & Bt. Maj. D. C. Buell, K. Co., 3d Inf., absent A. A. G.
2nd Lt. & Bt. Capt. B. E. Bee, K. Co., 3d Inf., absent at Regt. Head Quarters, Adjutant.
2nd Lt. J. D. Wilkins, E. Co., 3d Inf., Comdg. Compy. E.
2nd Lt. W. H. Wood, C. Co., 3d Inf., Comdg. Compy. K.
1st Lt. & Bt. Capt. A. W. Bowman, Regt. Q. M. — on duty as A. C. S. & Actg. Q. M. at the Post.

Officers Commanding — Military Posts.

par. 971. Major Van Horne has been in command of this post since September 1849. The companies here, at present, are well instructed, Company K. recently arrived from San Elizario, has been commanded during 12. months past by Lt. Wilkins. This company has been drilled to manouvre and manage a section of battery, consisting of 3. mountain howitzers; and acquited itself well on drill.

Officers of the Army in General.

par. 972. Are intelligent and understand their duties very well.

Non-comd. Officers, Musicians & Privates.

par. 974. Are well instructed in the drill — their personal appearance is soldierlike — the number in the ranks correspond with the return.

Company Books.

par. 976. Are regularly and neatly kept, and are up to present date.

Quartermaster, Comsy. of Subsistence etc.

par. 977. The duties in these Departments appear to be performed in an efficient and satisfactory manner. Funds are provided on drafts on the Qr. Mr. Genl. of the Army, on the D. Q. M. Genl. at New Orleans either here or in the City of Chihuahua. In the last place, it is represented, any amount required for this or the upper posts may, in this way, be procured free of cost to Government. This officer has on hand, in Qr. Mr. Dept. $20,000 — these are in his possession.

Ordnance Department.

par. 978. Lt. Wilkins Actg. Ordnance Officer has 3. Mountain howitzers and 200 rounds of ammunition, together with a sufficient supply of small arms.

Medical Department.

par. 979. The duties in this Dept. are ably performed. The wards are comfortable and the sick carefully attended.

Repairs to Quarters, Barracks, etc.

par. 983. The buildings used as quarters, storehouses, hospital, etc. are hired at the rate of $350. per month, this includes ground enough for a garden.

Arms.

par. 985. In possession of both companies are in fine order.

Clothing & Equipment.

par. 986. A full supply is on hand and is of good quality.

Forage.

par. 988. From 6. to 7.000 fanegas of corn — one years supply for 200 animals — may be commanded here. The price at present varies

from $4— to $6 — the fanega. Last year $8.50. was given. The supply will increase with the population of this section of the country — but there is little prospect of its doing so very rapidly.

Subsistence Department.

par. 989. There is in store **eight months** supply for the present garrison; should that part of the train now at the Guadalupe Mountains get in without loss, there will be sufficient for one year. Flour, made in Chihuahua, of fair quality, is delivered here at 11. cents per lb. Beans of excellent quality may also be got in the vicinity. The A. C. S. reports that beef cattle may be got from Texas at **cheaper rates** than from Chihuahua. This may be the case at present owing to the fact that, nearly the whole of the latter state has been swept of its stock by the Apaches; and how long this condition of things may continue, it is impossible to foresee.

Quarters & Barracks.

par. 990. Are in good order; and well arranged.

Miscellaneous.

I do not consider it important that a strong garrison should be maintained here. This has heretofore been the principal crossing place on the route to and from the City of Chihuahua. But at present, the lower road crossing at the Presidio of San Elizario (22. mi. below) is preferred by all heavy trains, as it avoids the **"Sandhills"** on the former route. To occupy both these positions appears to be unnecessary; and of the two I consider San Elizario the more important. The only service required of or that can be required of Infantry here, is to give security to the Mexican town on the opposite bank of the river. As a depot, San Elizario is preferable; as the old **presidio** would afford ample store room without cost to Govt. Fuel here, by contract is $9 — per cord — Timber for building must be hauled from the mountains 60. or 70. miles.

I am very respectfully,
Your obt. sert.
Geo. A. McCall
Inspt. Genl.

Maj. Genl. R. Jones
Adjt. Genl. U. S. Army
Washington City
D. C.

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Lineage of the Air Defense School

1824 Artillery School of Instruction
1856 Artillery School of Practice
1907 Coast Artillery School
1942 Anti-Aircraft Artillery School
1946 Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Guided Missile School
1957 Air Defense School

FORT BLISS REPLICA MUSEUM